

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 08431 291525Z

44

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 291353Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5611

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY SUVA

S E C R E T CARACAS 8431

EXDIS

FROM US DEL LOS

EO 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: ARCHIPELAGO NEGOTIATION WITH THE BAHAMAS

(1) DURING DISCUSSION ON AUGUST 25 GEORGE STEWART OF BAHAMAS LOS DEL INDICATED TO US REP. JOHN NORTON MOORE THAT HE FELT LAST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER OR FIRST IN OCTOBER WOULD BE BEST TIME FOR MOORE TEAM VISIT TO NASSAU.

(2) STEWART ALSO AGREED WITH MOORE WHEN IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF ONLY NARROW DIFFERENCES IF ANY REMAINING BETWEEN US AND BAHAMAS LOS DELS, THE PURPOSE OF VISIT SHOULD BE TO FINALIZE THE ARCHIPELAGO AND STRAITS UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

(3) RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND BAHAMIAN LOS DELS CONTINUE TO BE EXTREMELY CORDIAL. STEWARD INDICATED AGAIN FOM MIN ADDERLY VERY PLEASED WITH DEVELOPMENTS.

(4) IF DEPT CONCURS, LOS TEAM RECOMMENDS THAT
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EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK TO SCHEDULE MOORE TEAM VISIT TO

NASSAU DURING LAST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER (PER EARLIER REFTEL) OR FIRST WEEK OCTOBER ASSUMING THESE DATES CONVENIENT FOR ADDERLY. TEAM ALSO RECOMMENDS EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK TO CONVEY IMPRESSION THAT PURPOSE OF TRIP IS TO FINALIZE AGREEMENT ALREADY LARGELY REACHED BETWEEN US AND BAHAMAIN LOS TEAM.

(5) FYI JAKARTA MANILA AND SUVA -- MOORE INFORMED INDONESIAN PHILIPPINE AND FIJI LOS TEAMS THAT US WOULD BE TALKING IN DETAIL WITH BAHAMAS DURING SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER ON ARCHIPELAGO ISSUES AND THAT IT WAS LIKELY THAT LAND WATER RATIO MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT ENLARGED FROM PRESENT 5-1 DURING THOSE DISCUSSIONS. INDONESIAN, PHILIPPINE AND FIJI REPS INDICATED FULL UNDERSTANDING AND CONCURRED WITH INCLUSION OF BAHAMAS WITHIN ARCHIPELAGO GROUP. MOORE ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT US SUPPORT FOR ARCHIPELAGO PRINCIPLE IN THE LOS CONFERENCE STILL DEPENDED ON FULL AGREEMENT WITH KEY ARCHIPELAGO STATES AND THAT THIS WOULD BE MADE CLEAR TO THE BAHAMAS.
STEVENSON

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NNN

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